2nd November 1931]

Excise

Declaration of policy by the Government to introduce total prohibition in twenty years.

* 517 *Q.*—Mr. P. BAYAPPA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have declared to bring about total prohibition in this Presidency within a period of twenty years, and if so, from what date; and

(*b*) whether this declaration had been kept in view by the Government in their excise policy, and if so, whether the Government will furnish a statement of the endeavours they have made till now to fulfil their pledge to carry out their declared policy towards total prohibition in twenty years?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) While the Government have accepted prohibition as an ideal to work up to, they have not laid down any definite period for the achievement of such a goal. The Government are in pursuance of this policy restricting facilities for obtaining drink, such as reducing the number of shops, reducing the limit of private possession, raising the duties on liquor, restricting the hours of sale, and so on and are introducing schemes of partial prohibition in selected areas. Such partial prohibition has been introduced in selected areas in Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Ramnad, Salem and Nilgiri districts.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government expect that the steps that they are taking will result in total prohibition of liquor in 20 years?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The Legislative Council have passed the resolution and Government are trying to carry it out as far as possible. Nobody can say what will happen in the next 20 years."

Deputation to the Collector of Anantapur to introduce prohibition in certain areas.

* 518 *Q.*—Mr. P. BAYAPPA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether more than 800 people representing the Tarimala group of villages waited on deputation on the Collector of Anantapur, Rai Bahadur N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, to request him to enquire and recommend their villages for prohibition;

(*b*) whether the Collector of Anantapur after enquiry closed the arrack shops with the sanction of the Excise Commissioner from 1st April 1931;

(*c*) whether the Collector recommended the closure of the toddy shops also within the area from 1st October after the expiry of their lease term on the 30th September;

(*d*) whether the Excise Commissioner accepted the recommendation; and

(*e*) when the proposal for declaring the Tarimala group of villages for 'prohibition' reached the Government?

A.—(*a*) It is reported that a deputation waited on the Collector in the matter.

(*b*) The two arrack shops in the Tarimala area were closed temporarily from 1st April 1931.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Commissioner did not object to the Collector's proposal being accepted.

(*e*) On 6th July 1931.

Deputation from the Tarimala group of villages to the Excise Minister for the introduction of prohibition.

* 519 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether deputations from the Tarimala group of villages and Peddavadugur group waited upon him on the 26th June when he visited Anantapur and represented their respective cases for prohibition; and

(*b*) whether the hon. Minister, in consultation with the Collector, promised favourable consideration of their prayers?

A.—(*a*) Yes, but the date appears to have been the 20th or 21st June.

(*b*) The best consideration was promised.

Postponement of the auction-sale of toddy and arrack shops in the Gooty and Anantapur taluks.

* 520 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the auction-sales of the toddy shops in Gooty and Anantapur taluks were postponed from July to an indefinite date, pending the orders of Government on the recommendation of the District Officers and the Revenue Board;

(*b*) whether a District Gazette notification was issued fixing the dates of auction of the toddy shops of these two taluks to August;

(*c*) whether the present Collector Sriman D. Mahanti Mahasayo issued a District Gazette notification, dated 20th September, that the sales of the toddy shops is Gooty and Anantapur taluks would be held on the 5th and 7th October respectively, excepting the shops in Peddavadugur and Tarimala areas;

(*d*) whether the Collector issued cyclostyled circulars of the above notification to all the village officers also;